

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**1. (Currently Amended)** A method for removing membranous lead sulfate deposited on electrodes of a lead-acid battery due to sulfation, the method comprising:

applying a negative pulse current having a short pulse width of 0.1  $\mu$ s to less than 1  $\mu$ s, a pulse frequency of from 8000 to 12000 Hz, and a current value in a range of 10 to 120 mA, so as to bring about a conductor skin effect for ~~intensively~~ dissolving a surface layer of said membranous lead sulfate deposited on said electrodes of said lead-acid battery.

**2. (Previously Presented)** The method set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

charging said lead-acid battery while or after applying said pulse current to said battery, to resolve the lead sulfate dissolved by applying said pulse current.

**3-5. (Cancelled)**

**6. (New)** The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the bringing about of the conductor skin effect results in the surface layer of said membranous lead sulfate deposited on said electrodes of said lead-acid battery being intensively dissolved.

**7. (New)** The method set forth in claim 1, wherein said surface layer of said membranous lead sulfate deposited on said electrodes of said lead-acid battery is dissolved into fine particles

without causing the membranous lead sulfate to fall off of said electrodes or to be suspended in an electrolytic solution.